

# Child Restraint Law Enforced

*28 June 1984 Wave*

The Utah Child Passenger Safety Act will take effect July 1, 1984. The purpose of this new law is to save the lives and prevent injuries to Utah's children. The Utah Department of Health recently compiled the following facts showing the need to encourage parents to use child safety seats and seat belts with their children.

One out of every 57 children born in Utah will be seriously injured or killed in a motor vehicle accident before reaching his or her fifth birthday. If all children involved in traffic accidents had been properly restrained, estimates suggest there would have

been 19 fewer deaths and at least 300 fewer serious injuries among Utah's children from 1979 through 1982.

Because of these startling figures, Utah's new law has been dubbed, "Utah's Law of Love."

The Wasatch City-County Health Department 654-2700 has more information on the availability of car safety seats for purchase or rent in your area. Other information is available from the Bureau of Health Promotion/Risk Reduction, Utah Department of Health, 533-6120.

"Utah's Law of Love" is designed to educate parents and encourage them to use car safety

seats for their children. The proper use of car safety seats and seat belts has been shown to be a very effective way to reduce fatalities and injuries from motor vehicle accidents.

The penalty for non-compliance is a fine of up to \$20. The fine will be dropped if the parent of guardian shows evidence of getting a car safety seat when appearing in court. This is not a law with harsh penalties. It is a law to educate and encourage a basic safety practice.

"Utah's Law of Love" is designed to save children's lives and parents injuries to them as the result of automobile accidents.

There are a few simple facts that parents need to be aware of when "Utah's Law of Love" takes effect July 1, 1984:

All children up to the age of 2 years must ride in a child car safety seat. Children between the ages of 2 and 5 must use either a child safety seat or a seat belt, unless all seating positions which can be equipped with child restraints or seat belts are occupied by other passengers.

This law will be enforced in all vehicles except motorcycles, mopeds, motor homes, campers, buses and other vehicles which offer transportation for hire, such as taxi cabs.